

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant wishes to extend thanks to the Examiner and gratitude for the courtesy extended to the Applicant of a phone interview on September 5, 2003. During the interview, the subject matter of the present invention was discussed and the Examiner offered several helpful suggestions as how best to proceed to advance the present application. In the present Office Action, claims 120-144 were examined. Claims 122-130 and 134-144 were withdrawn from consideration. Claims 120 and 121 were rejected. Claims 131-133 were objected to. Claim 120 has been amended herein in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. Claims 120-121 and 131-133 are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102

The Examiner rejected claims 120-121 as being anticipated by either Japanese reference '434 or Scofield et al. (3,733,696). The Examiner noted that claim 120 recites a joining profiled section being selected from the group consisting of a profiled section limb, an extruded section with a plurality of recesses and a grooved wedge. The Examiner noted that joining profiled sections 24 and 27 of Scofield et al. and the Japanese reference are readable as a profiled section limb.

As amended herein, claim 120 now recites a profiled section limb "extending from said composite profiled section". It is therefore made clear that the profiled section limb extends from said composite profiled section and is integral with said composite profiled section as recited in the specification and illustrated in Figure 1. It is clear that items 24 and 27 of Scofield et al. and the Japanese reference neither extend from, nor are integral with, the analogous composite

profiled section of the prior art. As a result, Applicant believes claim 120 traverses the Examiner's grounds for rejection. Therefore, claim 120 is believed to be in condition for allowance. As claim 121 is dependent upon claim 120, claim 120 now believed to be in condition for allowance, claim 121 is likewise believed to be in condition for allowance. In addition, as claims 131-133 are likewise dependent upon claim 120, claims 131-133 are likewise believed to be in condition for allowance.

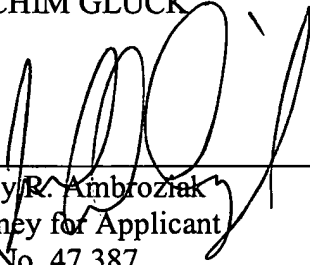
An earnest and thorough attempt has been made by the undersigned to resolve the outstanding issues in this case and place same in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or feels that a telephone or personal interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues which remain in this application after consideration of this amendment, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned and the same would be gratefully appreciated.

It is submitted that the claims as amended herein patentably define over the art relied on by the Examiner and early allowance of same is courteously solicited.

If any fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

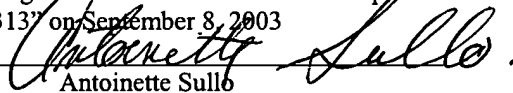
Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on September 8, 2003


Antoinette Sullb